

# TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

JOHN M. COWAN, B.A., M.D. Cantab.,  
D.Sc. Glasgow

FELLOW OF THE FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS;  
LECTURER ON PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, WESTERN MEDICAL SCHOOL;  
DISPENSARY PHYSICIAN, WESTERN INFIRMARY;  
EXTRA HONORARY PHYSICIAN, ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.



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14 WOODSIDE CRESCENT,  
GLASGOW, *May 24th*, 1906.

*TO THE MANAGERS OF  
THE ROYAL INFIRMARY.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to offer myself as a candidate for the post of Physician to the Royal Infirmary.

I graduated B.A. (Honours) in the Science Tripos at Cambridge in the summer of 1891, and in October of that year returned to Glasgow, and completed my medical education at the University, Anderson's College, and the Western Infirmary. I graduated M.B., B.C., Cantab., in 1895, and M.D. in 1902. I was elected a Fellow of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons in 1898, and became D.Sc., Glasgow, in 1904.

After graduation, I filled resident posts in the Western Infirmary (1895-96), Royal Hospital for Sick Children (1896), and City of Glasgow Fever Hospitals (1897-98), and in 1900 served in South Africa as Physician to the Scottish National Red Cross Hospital (mentioned in despatches).

I have been a member of the staffs of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children and the Western Infirmary since 1899, and have been lecturing on Practice of Medicine at the Western Medical School since 1900.

I have been engaged in Scientific Research for the past eight years, and in 1903 was elected Foulis Memorial

Scholar, and in 1904 a Research Fellow of the University. In the same year the degree of Doctor in Science (Glasgow) was conferred on me for this work.

Should I have the honour of being elected to the post which I now seek, I shall discharge the duties to the best of my abilities, and, I trust, to your satisfaction.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN M. COWAN.

## Contributions to Medical Literature.

ON THE PRESYSTOLIC MURMUR.—*Glasgow Medical Journal*, 1898, vol. i., pp. 166-171. 2 Figs.

NOTES ON EMPYEMATA IN CHILDHOOD.—*Glasgow Hospital Reports*, 1900, pp. 314-327.

KROONSTAD. MAY-SEPTEMBER, 1900.—*Scottish Medical and Surgical Journal*, 1901, pp. 21-29.

ON OBSTRUCTION OF THE CORONARY ARTERIES.—*Transactions of the Pathological and Clinical Society*, 1902, vol. ix., pp. 49-63. 2 Figs.

FATTY DEGENERATION OF THE MYOCARDIUM.—*Journal of Pathology*, 1902, vol. viii., pp. 177-199. 12 Figs.

THE HEART IN ACUTE DISEASE.—*Journal of Pathology*, 1903, vol. ix., pp. 87-110. 19 Figs.

THE FIBROSES OF THE HEART.—*Journal of Pathology*, 1903, vol. ix., pp. 209-224. 12 Figs.

FIVE ILLUSTRATIVE CASES OF CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE (with Dr. A. R. FERGUSON). *Lancet*, 1903, vol. ii., pp. 952-956. 3 Figs.

THE CARDIAC MUSCLE. (A lecture delivered to the Medico-Chirurgical Society of the University of Glasgow).—*Edinburgh Medical Journal*, 1904, pp. 127-136. 10 Figs.

A REVIEW OF RECENT WORK UPON BLOOD PRESSURE —*Practitioner*, 1904, vol. lxxiii., pp. 218-238.

THE CURRENT THEORIES REGARDING THE CAUSATION OF ARTERIO-SCLEROSIS.—*Practitioner*. Part I., 1905, vol. lxxv., pp. 203-216. Part II., 1906, vol. lxxvi., pp. 317-331. 8 Figs.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE ACUTE INFECTIONS UPON  
THE ARTERIES.—*Glasgow Medical Journal (in the press).*

A NOTE ON THE SIZE OF THE SPLEEN IN RICKETS  
(with Dr. J. CAMPBELL M'CLURE). *British Journal of Children's  
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A NOTE BOOK OF MEDICINE. Glasgow: James MacLehose  
and Sons, 1905. Third edition.

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A CASE OF CREOSOTE POISONING IN A CHILD.—  
*Glasgow Medical Journal*, 1897, vol. i., pp. 145-147.

A CASE OF ACUTE ENDOCARDITIS.—*Transactions of the  
Pathological and Clinical Society*, 1899, vol. vii., pp. 237-239.

A SPECIMEN OF A RARE FORM OF AORTIC INCOM-  
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Society*, 1902, vol. ix., pp. 88-90. 2 Figs.



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## TESTIMONIALS.

*From* T. CLIFFORD ALLBUTT, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.P.,  
*etc.*, *Regius Professor of Physic, University of Cambridge.*

ST. RADEGUND'S,  
CAMBRIDGE, *May 17th*, 1906.

I CAN cordially recommend the merits of DR. COWAN of King's College, now of Glasgow, for the post of Physician to the Royal Infirmary. Dr. Cowan left behind him here a high reputation for serious application to work, abilities considerably above the average, and the agreeable personal qualities which enhance those higher merits, and conduce to the pleasant and efficient co-operation with colleagues.

Perhaps I cannot better illustrate what I have said than by copying the following entry from my book of theses for the degree of M.D.—under Dr. Cowan's name: Dec. 4. 02. "The Heart in Acute Disease." "Act kept with a thesis embodying an elaborate histological investigation—which, when correlated with clinical data, will be very valuable. Many fine drawings were produced."

It is difficult to conceive any training more thorough for efficiency in medicine, and for the development of the faculties, than such intimate and methodical investigations, the only sure foundation for the science and practice of Medicine.

T. CLIFFORD ALLBUTT.

*From JAMES FINLAYSON, M.D., LL.D., Physician to the Western Infirmary, Consulting Physician to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, and to the Hospital for Diseases of the Ear; Late President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons.*

2 WOODSIDE PLACE,  
CHARING CROSS, May 22nd, 1906.

DR. JOHN M. COWAN'S application for wards in the Glasgow Royal Infirmary is entitled to and is sure to receive very serious consideration.

No doubt there is the objection that he has not served the Institution in the lower grades of office, but when the higher appointments are concerned it has always seemed to me that the best possible men should be selected. If the Royal Infirmary is to maintain the reputation of its staff, men like Dr. Cowan, who have devoted themselves to the scientific aspects of medicine, are required when vacant posts as Physicians have to be filled up.

Dr. Cowan has qualified himself for such a post by varied hospital experience as a resident assistant in the Western Infirmary, the Children's Hospital, and Belvidere Fever Hospital, while in the Scottish Hospital during the war in South Africa he acquired further and rare experience. Since then he has worked assiduously at pathological inquiries, which are so important as a basis for practical medicine, and his published investigations, particularly regarding the heart and the arteries, are justly recognised as important.

As a teacher of medicine he has already taken high rank and has had experience in clinical teaching in the wards of the Western Infirmary, and more particularly in the out-patient department there. He has likewise conducted a successful class in systematic medicine in the Western Medical School.

Dr. Cowan served for a time under me in the Children's Hospital, and I have followed his subsequent course with interest and admiration. He has the requisite natural ability, and he has taken ample pains to qualify himself for the work of a physician; he is sure to make good use of his opportunities if appointed to wards in the Royal Infirmary.

JAMES FINLAYSON.

*From* GEORGE A. GIBSON, M.D., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.C.P.,  
F.R.S.E., *Physician to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.*

3 DRUMSHEUGH GARDENS,  
EDINBURGH, 21st May, 1906.

The position which DR. J. M. COWAN holds in the medical world of Glasgow is so well known that any testimonial from me may well seem superfluous. As he has, however, requested my opinion, I have much pleasure in acceding to his desire.

My knowledge of Dr. Cowan rests upon the basis of long personal acquaintance with him, and I am intimately conversant with the valuable contributions he has made to the literature of medicine. As a teacher I know that Dr. Cowan has been singularly successful both in systematic and clinical work, and the long course of preparation which he has passed through in the Western Medical School and the Western Infirmary gives the best guarantee of his future development.

Dr. Cowan's original work has already taken a very high place in modern medicine, and, as much of it has lain along lines parallel to investigations of my own, I am in a position which allows me to form a clear judgment as to its value. I have no hesitation in saying that he has made great additions to our knowledge of

many pathological problems connected with the circulation, many of which I have been glad to utilize in my own work. In addition to these pathological contributions, Dr. Cowan has also produced some admirable clinical observations, showing that in his labours pathological investigation and clinical observation go hand in hand.

Understanding that Dr. Cowan is at present a candidate for the post of Physician to the Royal Infirmary, I have much satisfaction in warmly recommending him for the post, as I am convinced that he will throw additional lustre upon this important position.

G. A. GIBSON.

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*From* ARTHUR C. LATHAM, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. *Physician and Lecturer in Medicine, St. George's Hospital; Assistant Physician, Brompton Hospital for Consumption, London.*

44 BROOK STREET,  
GROSVENOR SQUARE, *May 20th, 1906.*

I HAVE much pleasure in stating that I have known DR. JOHN M. COWAN for a number of years, and that I regard him as eminently qualified to hold the post of Physician to the Royal Infirmary.

Dr. Cowan's thorough knowledge of his subject, great capacity for teaching, and scientific enthusiasm more than fit him for any post of this kind.

ARTHUR C. LATHAM.



*From* ALEXANDER MACALISTER, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., etc.,  
*Professor of Anatomy in the University of Cambridge.*

TORRISDALE,  
 CAMBRIDGE, *May 21st*, 1906.

I HAVE been interested in taking note of the work which DR. COWAN has been engaged in, both as teacher and researcher, and have been pleased to note how well he has fulfilled the promise of his student days. He was one of the ablest men of his year in my class, and the quality and method of his work led me to anticipate for him a successful and distinguished career. I believe he has shewn all the qualities that go to make a successful Physician, and can confidently recommend him to the consideration of the Managers of the Royal Infirmary.

ALEX. MACALISTER.

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*From* DONALD MACALISTER, M.A., M.D., D.Sc., D.C.L.,  
 F.R.C.P., *Linacre Lecturer of Physic in the University of  
 Cambridge; Chairman of the General Medical Council.*

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE,  
 CAMBRIDGE, *May 21st*, 1906.

DR. JOHN M. COWAN is well known to me as an able and diligent Pathologist and Physician, who has used his opportunities well, and has contributed notably to medical knowledge. I regard him as exceptionally qualified for the important post that he is seeking at the Royal Infirmary.

DONALD MACALISTER.

*From D. J. MACKINTOSH, M.V.O., M.B., Medical Superintendent, Western Infirmary.*

WESTERN INFIRMARY,  
GLASGOW, *May 24th, 1906.*

I HAVE very great pleasure in stating that I have known DR. JOHN M. COWAN intimately since his early student days. He studied in Cambridge and Glasgow Universities and graduated with Honours. Since graduation he has held various posts as Physician, and I can speak from personal knowledge of the excellence of his work in the Western Infirmary; he is a most successful teacher, a careful observer, and a most agreeable man to work with.

Dr. Cowan acted as Physician to the Scottish National Red Cross Hospital in South Africa, and added materially to his clinical experience. There is no man of his time whom I know, who has had a more thorough and complete training in the particular branch of professional work which he has pursued steadily for over ten years.

Dr. Cowan's Father, Grandfather and Great-grandfather were, in their time, all members of the Staff of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Dr. Cowan fully upholds the reputation of his forefathers, and it is not surprising that he should aspire to the post of Physician to that Institution; but the success which he has already attained as a Physician has been entirely due to his own merits.

Dr. Cowan will present testimonials from others who will speak of the value of his original work. I would only say that he has had the advantage, by special Hospital training, of gaining a thorough knowledge of his profession, and I know of no man who has made better use of his opportunities.

D. J. MACKINTOSH.



*From* ROBERT MUIR, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.F.P.S., *Professor of Pathology in the University of Glasgow.*

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW,  
May 26th, 1906.

I HAVE pleasure in writing in strong support of the application of DR. JOHN M. COWAN for the post of Physician to the Royal Infirmary, as he appears to me to have in special degree all the necessary qualifications.

Possessed of high natural powers, and having the advantage of an excellent training, he has devoted his energies exclusively to medicine in its various aspects, and has already won a high reputation both as a clinician and as a teacher. I would wish especially to emphasize the fact that while availing himself of every opportunity for extending his clinical knowledge, he has also during the last few years carried on important research in the domain of cardiac disease, and his published papers place him in the front rank of workers on this subject. In fact, I consider that, in the department treated, his writings are not excelled as regards extent and accuracy by any in English. I should also state that his scientific work has been done in no way at the expense of practical work in medicine. On the contrary, he has already had a wide clinical experience both at the Western Infirmary and elsewhere, is thoroughly versed in modern methods of examination, and is in my opinion a highly qualified clinician. Amongst the younger physicians in Glasgow there is no one, in my opinion, to whose future eminence one can look forward to with greater confidence, and if he were appointed a really valuable addition would be made to the staff of the Royal Infirmary.

ROBERT MUIR.

*From* JAMES RITCHIE, M.A., M.D., *Fellow of New College ;  
Professor of Pathology in the University of Oxford.*

UNIVERSITY MUSEUM,  
OXFORD, *May 20th, 1906.*

I HAVE great pleasure in supporting DR. JOHN M. COWAN in his candidature for the post of Physician to the Royal Infirmary.

I have had occasion to make myself familiar with his past work, especially with that relating to Disease of the Heart, and I have formed a very high opinion of its quality. To engage in investigations such as Dr. Cowan has carried on is the best possible preparation for prosecuting in a proper manner the teaching and practice of Medicine, because it is only by a thorough knowledge of the scientific phenomena of disease that symptoms can be interpreted, and a rational treatment devised.

Dr. Cowan, I therefore consider, possesses the highest qualifications for filling the post which he now seeks.

JAMES RITCHIE.

*From* G. SIMS WOODHEAD, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.E.,  
etc., *Professor of Pathology in the University of  
Cambridge.*

PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY,  
NEW MUSEUM,  
CAMBRIDGE, *May 21st, 1906.*

DR. JOHN M. COWAN informs me that he is a candidate for the vacant Medical Wards in the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, and asks me to state whether I think he is qualified to fill this post. I may say that I have a very high opinion of

the work done by Dr. Cowan. I have had occasion to examine three of his papers most closely, and since I did this I have had the opportunity of meeting Dr. Cowan. I have been very much struck by the thorough grasp that he has of Medicine and Pathology. He is a man of wide experience in Medicine, and he has taken the best of all means to fit himself for such a post as that for which he is now a candidate; whilst devoting much of his time to the Practical aspect of Medicine he has paid a great deal of attention to the cause and course of disease. His work on the Heart is, I consider, some of the best that has been published, and I believe that it has had, and will have a very marked influence on the Diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the heart and blood-vessels. I wish Dr. Cowan every success in his candidature.

G. SIMS WOODHEAD.

*From G. P. TENNENT, M.D., Consulting Physician to the  
Western Infirmary.*

159 BATH STREET,  
GLASGOW, May 19th, 1906.

I HAVE special pleasure in giving DR. J. M. COWAN my heartiest recommendation in his application for the post of Physician to the Royal Infirmary. Dr. Cowan's medical education has been unusually complete. Of his clinical work, while a student, I had ample personal experience, and I was then led to form a very high estimate of his abilities. After graduating Dr. Cowan acted for upwards of six months as Resident Physician in charge of my wards in the Western Infirmary, and my intimate knowledge of him during that period greatly intensified the very high opinion of his abilities already formed. Subsequently, Dr. Cowan held for a considerable time the

appointments of Resident Medical Officer to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, and of Assistant Physician to the City Fever Hospital at Belvidere. Always earnestly devoted to the medical side of the profession, Dr. Cowan on commencing private work as a Physician resolved on avoiding all Visiting Practice, so as to concentrate his attention wholly on Hospital, Teaching, and Consulting Work. For seven years he has been attached as Dispensary Physician to the Outdoor Medical Departments of the Western Infirmary and to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, and for the last six years he has lectured with marked success on the Practice of Medicine in the Western Medical School. During these years, too, Dr. Cowan has already secured for himself a very high reputation in the Profession, by his excellent original investigations, and his valuable contributions to medical literature.

For these reasons Dr. Cowan is in my opinion eminently worthy of and exceptionally well qualified for the post of Physician to the Royal Infirmary, and if he is appointed to that post, I have no hesitation in predicting that he will in the future add very greatly to the reputation of the Royal Infirmary.

G. P. TENNENT.









